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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN SANTA ROSA CELEBRATES NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK – THE FLORIDA WAY

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Milton, Fla. – This week is National Public Health Week and the Florida Department of Health in Santa Rosa County is giving Floridians an inside look at some of the careers behind public health and the dedicated professionals who do them. Each day, the department will highlight a different area of public health including epidemiology, emergency preparedness and response, environmental health and public health nursing. These fields and many more help the department carry out our mission to promote, protect and improve the health of Florida residents and visitors.

Last year, the department was the first state in the nation to receive national accreditation as an integrated department of health through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Accreditation by PHAB signifies that the department, including the state health office and all 67 county health departments, is meeting national standards for ensuring essential public health services are provided in the community.

For the next two years, the department will focus on several key areas to improve health in our state including increasing childhood vaccination rates, achieving health equity in all communities, developing a high quality trauma service, reducing HIV infection rates, reducing infant mortality rates, decreasing inhaled nicotine use and decreasing licensure processing time for health care professionals.

The Florida Department of Health in Santa Rosa County is the only provider of dental services for Medicaid eligible children in our county. Following the retirement of long time dentist, Dr. Thomas Pyritz, DOH-Santa Rosa entered into an agreement with Pro Med Healthcare Services that will ensure the continuation of dental services at both health department locations in Milton and Midway. Pro Med's dental staff will also accept adult patients and has the capacity to accept cash payments and bill private insurances as well as Medicaid, resulting in an increase in the availability of dental services and access to dental care for those who may otherwise be unable to see a dentist. To schedule an appointment, or for more information about services available through the dental clinic, call 850-564-2248.

Use #ThankAPublicHealthPro on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to recognize a public health professional in your area during National Public Health Week.

For more information about National Public Health Week, please visit www.nphw.org. For more information about the different programs and services offered at DOH-Santa Rosa, please visit <http://santarosa.floridahealth.gov/index.html>, or call 850-983-5200.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit www.FloridaHealth.gov.